

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amend the 8<sup>th</sup> full paragraph on page 7 of the specification as follows:**

In the pneumatic tire having a tread pattern shown in this figure, the tread portion 1, preferably a central region of the tread, is provided with at least one circumferential groove (two circumferential grooves 3 and 4 in Fig. 1) extending along the circumferential direction of the tire (the direction parallel to the equatorial plane 2 of the tire) and a plurality of slant grooves 7a and 7b opening to the circumferential grooves 3 and 4 and obliquely extending from these opening positions 7a<sub>1</sub>, 7a<sub>2</sub> toward respective ground contact ends 5 and 6 of the tread. The slant grooves 7a and 7b are defined by leading and trailing groove walls in the circumferential direction of the tire.

**Amend the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the specification as follows:**

A first feature in the construction of the invention lies in a point of arranging a pseudo-land portion 11 having an adequate shape in the circumferential groove 3, 4, ~~concretely forming the pseudo-land portion 11 in the circumferential groove 3, 4 so as to promote smooth inflow of water flowing in the circumferential groove 3, 4 into the slant grooves 7a, 7b.~~ This feature is provided, for example, by extending axially inwardly a groove shape of the slant grooves 7a, 7b, as they extend toward the circumferential groove, by a second shape defined by an axially outer edge of the pseudo-land portion and the leading wall of the first slant groove. This is shown, for example, in Figs. 1, 7, 8, 11 and 12. By adopting ~~such a~~ this construction, ~~is succeeded the development of the drainage properties of the pneumatic tire capable of effectively enhancing the drainage property~~ are enhanced without sacrificing the other tire properties.